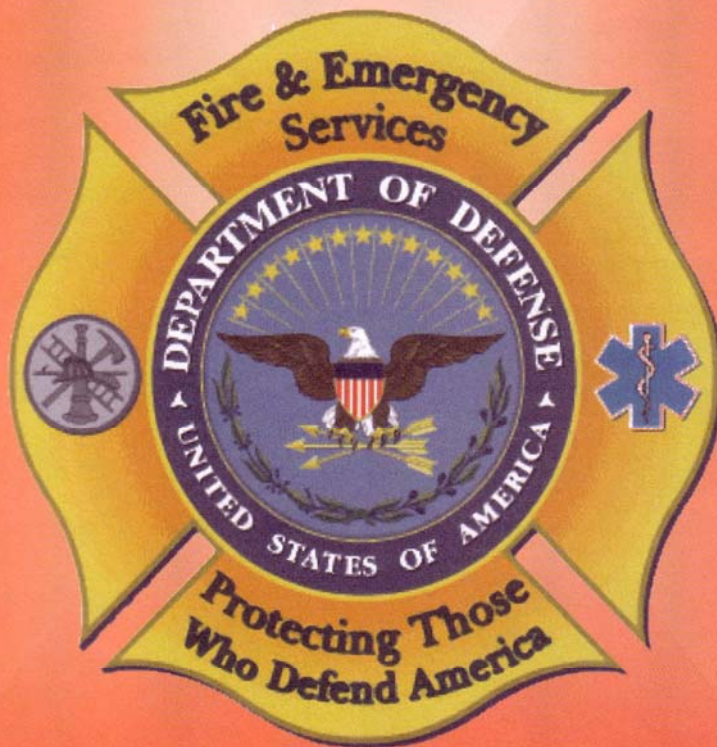


# FIRE PREVENTION HANDOUT BOOK

235<sup>TH</sup> BSB ANSBACH



FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



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# INTRODUCTION

March 2004

This is a small booklet -- BUT with a very important meaning for everyone.

How to PREVENT FIRES and what to do in the event of a fire -- is what this booklet is all about.

Any questions pertaining to fire safety, or asking for a courtesy fire inspection and training  
– don't hesitate – give us a call!

Your assistance in FIRE PREVENTION is greatly appreciated by your 235th BSB Ansbach,  
Fire & Emergency Services

*Stefan Groetschel*  
Chief  
Fire & Emergency Services





The construction type of housing buildings in Germany is exceptionally fire retardant.  
In case of fire:

The smoke detectors in your apartment are “Single Station Smoke Detectors”!

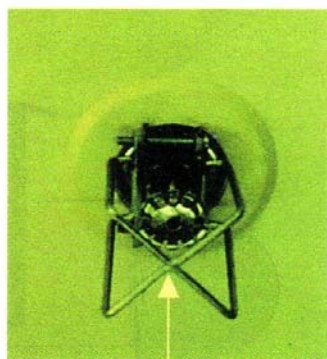
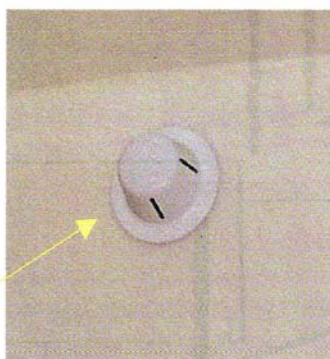
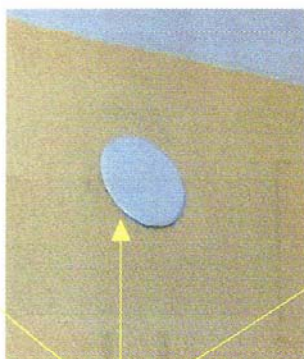
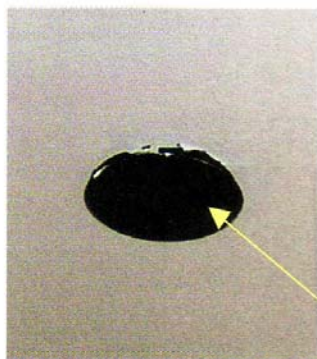
This means: The apartment smoke detectors are hard wired into the electrical system and will sound alarm in your apartment only! To notify other building occupants you must activate the push button alarm located in stairwell exits.



Fire Alarm Push Button Box located in stairwell exits

Smoke detectors in stairwells are connected to the Building Fire Alarm Detection System and will trigger a building alarm.

**SPRINKLER SYSTEMS:** If you do have a sprinkler system installed in your building Do not paint over or cover sprinkler heads with decorations, pictures and furniture.



Sprinkler behind cover

common type sprinkler

**ATTENTION:** The Family Housing Building Fire Alarm Detection Systems are not linked to the Fire Department. In case of fire - you must state an emergency phone call !!!

## Primary Escape:

If the amount of smoke and heat in the stairwell will permit safe travel in the stairwell to reach outdoors occupants should evacuate the building. Close windows and doors behind you to prevent smoke from spreading. Crawl low in smoke! Activate pushbutton alarm located at exit to alarm other building occupants. Go to a designated meeting point in a safe distance from the building. **Call the Fire Department!!!**

- Never go back into a burning building -

## Secondary Escape:

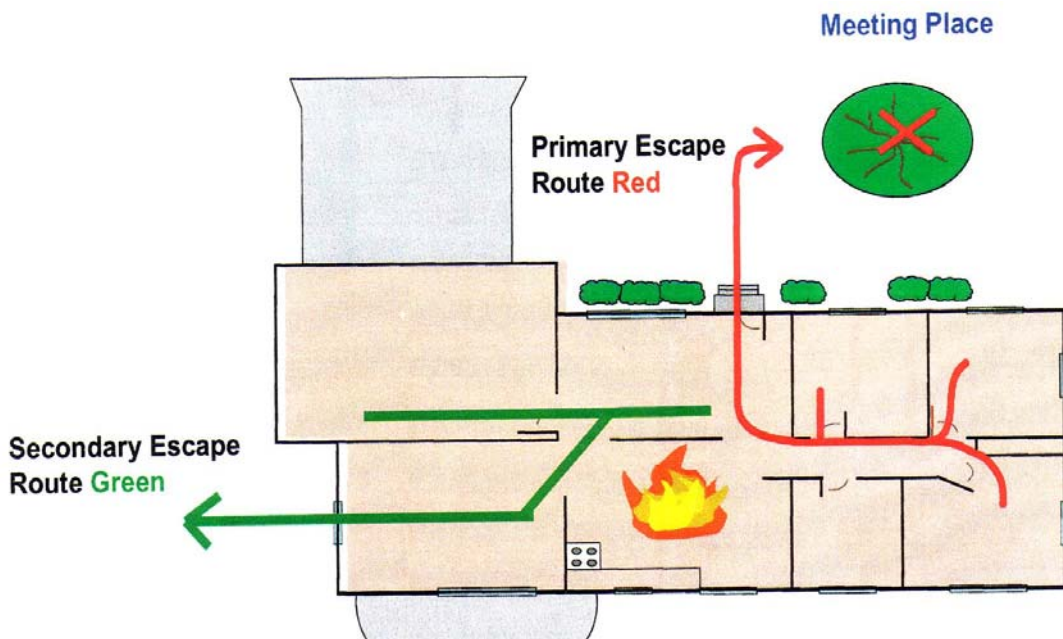
In case of fire, and if you occupy an upper floor apartment, evacuating through the stairwell may not be the safest alternative. It is possible that stairwells become impassable once they are filled with dense smoke if the fire started in the basement or an apartment below yours.

If the apartment door leading into stairwell feels hot - do not open; or if the stairwell is filled with smoke - remain in your apartment: **Call the Fire Department!!!**

Place moist towels on your door to prevent smoke from entering your apartment.

Go to a window - facing street side if possible - and signal out of the window to be rescued.

**ATTENTION:** The primary danger from fire is NOT the flame or heat, but rather smoke and toxic fumes. As smoke, heat and toxic fumes rise, the most dangerous area is concentrated at heights, even with and above the fire.





**Leased housing apartments are equipped with single station smoke detectors, which are hard-wired into the electrical system. These detectors will sound alarm in your department only. You have no building fire alarm detection system.**

**Private Rentals:** On German economy it is not common yet to provide apartments with smoke detectors. Ask your landlords if they are willing to install detectors – if not - you can purchase battery operated smoke detectors in electronic shops or in stores like Baywa and Obi. These detectors are easily mounted on walls or ceilings and usually require a 9 V battery to operate. Install them preferably in bedroom and kitchen areas. Change your batteries once a year. A constant peeping 9V smoke detector usually indicates low battery.

**REMEMBER: In case of emergencies always call the 235<sup>th</sup> BSB Ansbach Fire & Emergency Services**



## **SINGLE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS BUILDINGS**

### **BOQ's and SEBQ's:**

The majority of your quarters have single station smoke detectors installed in your rooms, which are also hardwired into the electrical system. They will sound alarm in your apartment only. Smoke detectors installed in hallways are connected in one loop and will sound alarm in hallways only. There is no Fire Alarm Detection System installed in the building.

**In case of fire - you must call the Fire Department!**



The 2 detectors in your apartment are: 1 “Single Station Smoke Detector”  
1 “Heat sensitive Detector”

Both apartment detectors are hard wired into the electrical system. The smoke detector will sound alarm in your apartment only! The heat sensitive detector is connected to the building Fire Alarm Detection System and will trigger a building alarm. Several troop billets have smoke detector release switches installed in the rooms. In case of an unwanted alarm you can reset the detector using the switch. Before you use the switch although make sure there are no indicators like hot steam from the shower or other in your room (open a window and air out the room) - otherwise the smoke detector will start to sound alarm again.

**DO NOT: disconnect smoke detectors from power – or tamper reset switches with coins!!! This is a serious violation of Fire Safety- and Military Regulations!!! In case of fire - you can be held liable for loss of life and Government damage.**



Hallway smoke stop doors and stairway fire doors in most of your buildings are held open by a magnet. In case of fire, these doors will close automatically to prevent smoke from spreading through the building and to keep your escape ways safe. The doors can be pushed open manually to evacuate and will close again behind you. Once the building is declared safe and the fire alarm detection system is reset from the fire department, the magnets will hold the door open again. If you want the door to stay closed instead of open all the time; there is a close switch installed on the wall nearby the door. Do not try to close them manually – you will damage the doors. **Non automatic smoke stop and fire doors must stay closed at all time, do not block them open with any kind device.**

Push button alarms to alert building occupants are also installed at each stairway exit.

**Your Building Fire Alarm transfers a signal to the Fire Department  
still - at all time **call the Fire Department!****

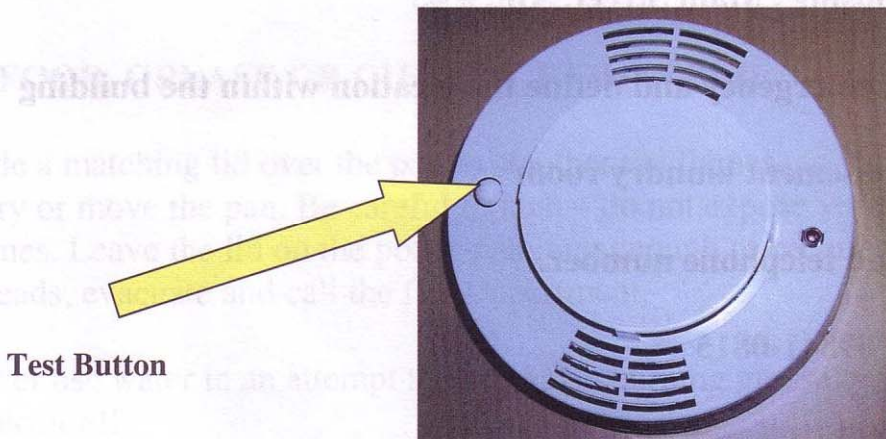


**HOW DO SMOKE DETECTORS WORK:** Fire creates many changes in the environment, and this can be used as an indicator to detect a fire. Most home smoke detectors have a photoelectric principle. A photoelectric detector works upon a tiny light source shining on a light sensitive sensor. Smoke from a fire will obstruct the light beam and initiate the alarm.

**NOTE:** If you are asleep the smell of smoke will not wake you up. In fact, smoke and poisonous gases (carbon monoxide) will put you into deeper sleep.

**TEST YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS** - at least once a month using the test button. If you find your smoke detector not functional, call for an emergency work order immediately.

**KEEP** your smoke detectors dust free and do not cover them with decorations.



**Never disconnect or tamper with your smoke detectors!!!!**

**The Government does invest a lot of funds for your life safety. Do not ignore it!** In a hostile fire, smoke and lethal vapors tend to spread farther and faster than heat. That's one reason why fire deaths caused by smoke inhalation outnumber fire deaths due to burns two to one - and the number of smoke inhalation victims is rising. Almost two decades ago tests were conducted, comparing the response times of smoke - to heat detectors. It was found that smoke detectors consistently activate before heat sensors do: This early warning provides extra time for evacuation in a fire, and can save your life.



**One of the most important steps in making your home a safer place is: to ensure everyone in your household is deeply familiar with the Fire Department emergency phone number, which should be conspicuously posted at your phone. Give all information you know: It is better to lose 30 seconds for complete emergency reporting than for the fire department to lose 10 minutes because of incomplete information:**

- **State your 4 digit building number ( on post only):**

**My building number is 5882**

- **Identify your housing area / street / apartment number:**

**Bleidorn Housing , Main Street, Apt. # 45**

- **Specify the type of emergency and define the location within the building**

**Fire in the basement laundry room**

- **State your name and telephone number.**

**Jane Doe at 09841-0815**

- **Special findings:**

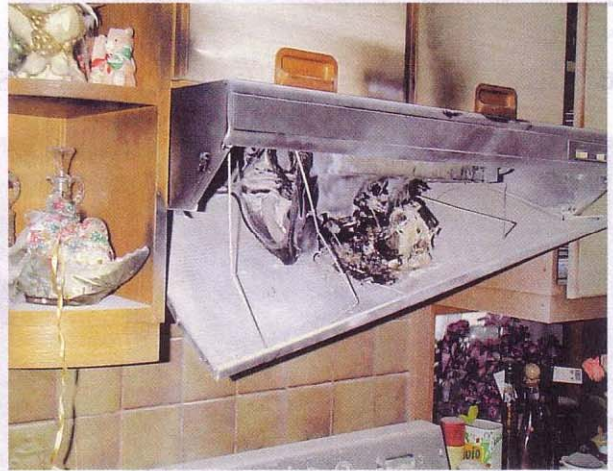
**Persons missed in burning building**

- **Do not hang up until the operator from our Fire Control Center has repeated all the information you provided!**

**NOTE: ALL FIRES, EVEN EXTINGUISHED ONES, WILL BE REPORTED TO THE MILITARY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR INVESTIGATION WITHOUT DELAY. EVIDENCE PERTINENT TO THE CAUSE OF FIRE WILL NOT BE REMOVED, DISTURBED, OR CLEANED UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED.**



**NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED !!! In case of fire and proven negligence you can be held liable for loss of other lives and Government damage.**



### **IF FOOD, GREASE OR OIL CATCHES ON FIRE:**

Slide a matching lid over the pan to smother the flames, and turn off the stove. Don't try to carry or move the pan. Be careful though – do not expose your clothing or skin to the flames. Leave the lid on the pot or pan long enough to be sure the fire is out. If the fire spreads, evacuate and call the fire Department.

Never use water in an attempt to extinguish burning grease or oil fires, it can cause an explosion!!!

Stovetop & Broiler should be clean and uncluttered. Filters and air ducts above the stoves can be a fire hazard. Greasy filters from exhaust systems need to be changed periodically. The principal hazard is that a sudden flare-up on the stove can ignite residue which has built up in the filter or air duct.

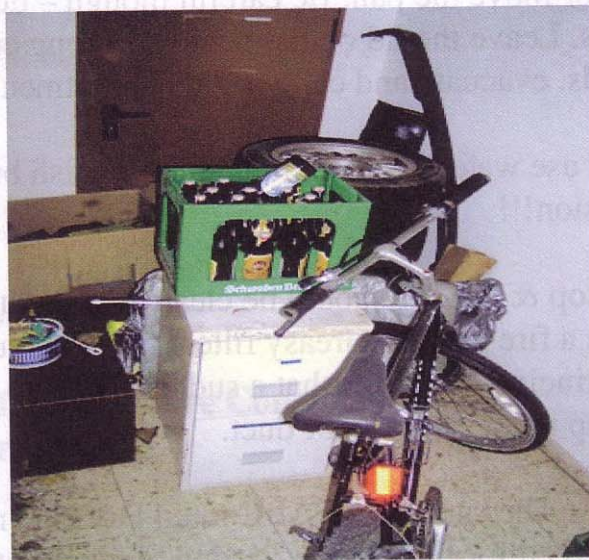
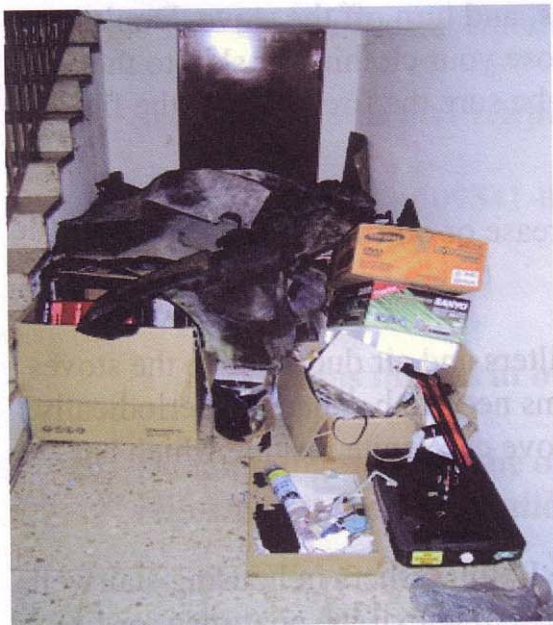
**NOTE:** The capacity of ABC rated Dry Chemical Fire Extinguishers in housing stairwells is designed for fires in the starting range. First goal is to safely exit the apartment or fire area, inform all other occupants and notify the Fire Department. Portable fire extinguishers used properly can save lives and property by putting out a small fire but always remember:

**Fight fires in the starting stage only – never endanger your self!**



**NOTE: All building occupants must avoid any obstruction in stairways because they are primary escape routes in case of fire, smoke and other emergencies. The storage or placement of any combustibile materials or furniture in stairways and basement hallways is prohibited.**

Make sure your basements and stairways do not look like this!!!



Lack of ordinary care in the use of flammable liquids like oil, gas and many chemicals is a major cause of fires and injuries. They can expose invisible vapors which spread and catch on fire quickly, i.e. gasoline vapors are 2.5 times heavier than air.





- Keep containers for flammable liquids in airy spots, out of reach for children. Flammable liquids are poisonous.
- Store only small amounts of hazardous materials and flammable liquids in listed and labeled safety cans inside a locked metal, or special plastic container.
- Use flammable liquids in well ventilated areas only. Do not use flammable liquids near flames or high temperature producing sources, the fumes may ignite and explode.
- Don't store fuel power lawnmowers in basements unless the fuel tank is completely empty.
- The storage of LP-gas containers within residential buildings, including the basement storage is limited to two containers each unit, and must not exceed 5,4 lb (2,4 kg) total capacity.

### LAUNDRY

Dryer lint trap does need to be cleaned after each use.

Dryers can overheat and start a fire.





- Don't leave the room or go to sleep while candles are burning.
- Keep candles in a safe distance from items that can catch fire such as curtains, paper, clothes, books, Christmas trees, etc.
- Use sturdy, fire resistant candle holders that won't tip over easily, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Don't put candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to ¼" and put out the candle and discard when they are about two inches from the bottom of the candle holder.
- Do not place candles in shelves or near combustible materials

**best - do not use candles at all !!!**

**THE USE OF BARBECUE GRILLS AND OTHER FLAME DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED ON BALCONIES, ALSO WITHIN FIVE FEET OF STRUCTURAL WALLS OR FLAMMABLE MATERIALS**

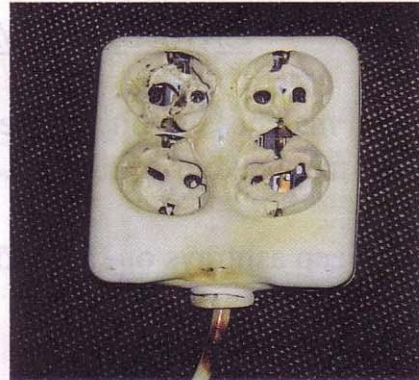
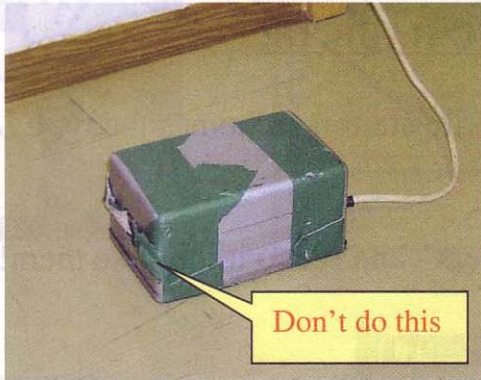
- Never add starter fluid to hot coals - the flames can travel up the stream to the container, and cause an explosion.
- Do not empty hot coals or ashes in waste containers.
- Stay away from open building doors and windows.
- Gas operated barbecues grills: make sure your gas bottles are completely empty before you store them in basements.
- Store barbecue grills safely out of reach for children!



One of the most common cause of residential or work place fires is improperly used or maintained electrical equipment or appliances. Extension cords misused, transformers overloaded, defective plugs & outlets and cracked or frayed electrical cords.

The use of electrical space heaters of any kind is strictly prohibited unless authorized in writing by the DPW. This includes all community buildings and family housing quarters.

- Portable transformers **MUST** be switched off or unplugged if not in use.
- Always place transformers, coffee-makers and water heaters on a non-combustible material (i.e. cookie-sheet, glass or porcelain plate, metal)

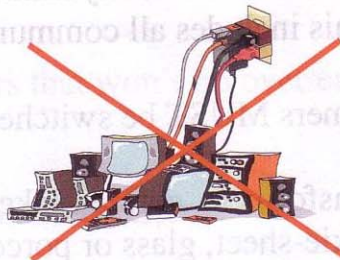


- Electrical sparks or heat caused by frayed electrical cords can set nearby substances on fire.
- Never run any wiring under carpets, trough doors, windows or wall openings.
- Too many plugs in one outlet can cause the wires to heat up and set fire to the material inside walls.
- Use tested electrical appliances only, check for presence of UL, VDE GS or TUEV labels.
- Heat sources located too near to electrical cords can burn or melt the insulation on the cord and start a fire.
- Using a higher wattage bulb than recommended can give off enough heat to burn the lamp shade.



in distance from combustibles.

- Keep combustibles away from heat sources.
- Make sure there are sufficient wall outlets to serve all appliances without overloading an extension cord



### **CARELESS SMOKING HABITS:**

- Smoking and matches are one of the prime fire starters in homes today. Even if you don't smoke, maybe your friends do.
- Have large, deep ashtrays on hand for smokers - and see to it they use them!
- Place cigarettes to fall into ashtrays.
- Empty ashtrays before they are full and take special care to inspect them before you go to bed or leave the house.
- Don't empty ashtrays into waste baskets until you are sure there are no hot ashes remaining.
- Make it a rule that no one smokes in bed or even in a chair when they are overtired. A burning cigarette dropped on the carpet or couch can smolder up to six hours before bursting into open flame occurs.
- Do not drop burning cigarettes butts at all - inside or outside.
- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach for children





# Classes of Fire

There are three classes of home type fires. Your ability to quickly identify the type of fire can save your home - and your life. Most extinguishers are designed to fight particular classes of fires. Some fight only one class; some fight two classes; then one home type fire extinguisher fights all three classes of fire

## The ABC's of Fires



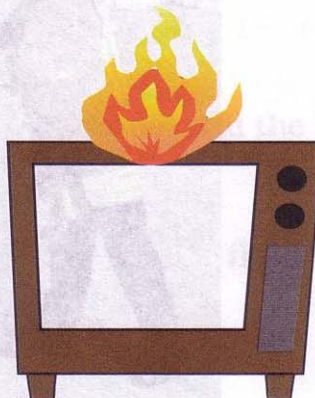
### Class A Fires

Fires in ordinary combustible materials.....fires involving paper wood, cloth, and many plastics



### Class B Fires

Fires in flammable liquids, gases, and greases.....a flash fire in your frying pan, the oven, or in paint and solvents.



### Class C Fires

Fires in electrical appliances and equipment...

Fire caused by faulty wiring, as in a TV.



# DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER?

Remember the word **PASS!**



**P**ull the pin and break the seal

**A**im at the base of fire

**S**queeze the lever

**S**weep in side to side motion

Contact the Fire Prevention Inspectors if you would like to participate in a

***LIFE FIRE TRAINING***

**AND LEARN- HANDS ON -HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER**





# **REMEMBER WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE!**



## **CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!**



- **Alert all building occupants**
- **Evacuate all occupants if possible, know your escape ways**
- **Close all windows and doors behind you**
- **Never use the elevator for evacuation in case of fire. Due to the risk of power interruption there is great danger of getting trapped**
- **Never open a door if it feels hot**
- **Crawl low in smoke**
- **Never go back into a burning building**
- **Go to your meeting place outside**
- **Guide the Fire Fighters to the scene of the incident and provide them with all necessary information**

### **If you live on upper floors and can't get out of the building:**

- **Do not panic, stay calm**
- **Keep your apartment door closed, seal the bottom of the door with a wet towel**
- **Open a window and signal to the fire fighters to be rescued**



## **Fire Station Katterbach:**

### **BSB Fire Chief:**

Stefan.Groetschel@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Station Chief:

Peter.Wittmann@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Josef.Hey@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Horst.Schoeniger@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Roland.Haering@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

## **Fire Prevention Office**

Fire Prevention Inspector:

Bianca.Altaner@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Fire Prevention Inspector:

Ute.Schwab@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Fire Prevention Inspector:

Christian.Schneider@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Fire Prevention Inspector:

Sabine.Searles@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Or to reach all inspectors at once

Firepreventionansbach@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

## **Fire Station Illesheim:**

Station Chief:

Hans.Scheuerlein@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Rudolf.Foerster@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Arthur.Dehner@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil

Crew Chief:

Ernst.Hohmeier@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil





# **FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS**

## **ANSBACH AREA**

### **CIV**

#### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

**FIRE:** 09802-83117

**OR** 09802-19217

**AMBULANCE:** 09802-83116

**MILITARY POLICE:** 0981-83114

**MY BUILDING NUMBER:**

**MY APPARTMENT NUMBER:**

**MY HOUSING AREA:**

### **DSN**

**FIRE:** 117

**AMBULANCE:** 116

**MILITARY POLICE:** 114

**Building Number:**

#### **Admin phone numbers for Fire Station Katterbach:**

**CIV:** 09802-1795 or 09802-83-2822

**DSN:** 467-2795 or 467-2822



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS**

## **ILLESHEIM AREA**

### **CIV**

#### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

**FIRE:** 09841-83117

**OR** 09841-19217

**AMBULANCE:** 09841-83116

**MILITARY POLICE:** 09841-83114

**MY BUILDING NUMBER:**

**MY APPARTMENT NUMBER:**

**MY HOUSING AREA:**

### **DSN**

**FIRE:** 117

**AMBULANCE:** 116

**MILITARY POLICE:** 114

**Building Number:**

#### **Admin phone numbers for Fire Station Illesheim:**

**CIV:** 09841-83-4835

**DSN:** 467-4835



# YOUR 235TH BSB FIRE DEPARTMENT

365 days a year, 24 hours a day – at your service

## Our mission includes:

- Fire Rescue
- Technical Rescue
- Medical Emergency Response
- Air Crash Rescue
- HAZMAT Response
- WMD Response
- Confined Space Rescue
- Rescue from heights
- Fire Prevention
- Education and Training
- Engineering
- Investigation



➤ And lot's more...